1417B P 316 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In Re Application of: JUL_0-2 1999 Arnold C, Bilstad, et Examiner 09/294,964 Serial No.: Art Unit: Filed: April 20, 1999 For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE STERILE/FIELD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

ant Commissioner for Patents
Ington, D.C. 20231
ir:

Applicant submits herewith Form PTO-1449, "Information Disclosure Statement," and a copy of each reference listed therein.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the Application or before the mailing date of a First Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)), no certification or fee is due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Diehl, Reg. No. 35,118 Wallenstein & Wagner, Ltd. 311 S. Wacker Drive, 53rd Floor Chicago, Illinois 60606-6622

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

Sarah J. Goodnigh